

17 October 1968

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PROJECT MERRIMACK - Special Report

On 16 October 1968, the Black United Front held a meeting at the School of Afro-American Thought, Washington, D. C. The principal speakers were Charles CASSELL, Reggie BOOKER and Chuck STONE. It was decided that the BUF would give the District of Columbia City Council 10 days to give them control of the District of Columbia police department. If this ultimatum was not met, the BUF would then proceed to arm approximately 3000 blacks to form their own protective unit in the inner city.

It was decided that they would discuss what action to take on the latest police killing at the next meeting, but no date was set for this meeting.

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SITUATION INFORMATION REPORT

Burglars broke into the office of the Radical Education Project and SDS and stole numerous files and records last month. Taken from the REP office were address lists, financial records, outgoing mail and part of a card file that listed subscribers to the Radicals in the Professions Newsletter. SDS lost a regional contact list, financial records and some correspondence. The robbery, say REP staffers, was a professional job.

Harvard and Radcliffe students will be picking fruit in Cuba this summer under the joint sponsorship of the Cuban government and the Students for a Democratic Society. Some eight students from Harvard and Radcliffe are expected to participate in the project which can accommodate 300. Students must provide their own transportation to Mexico City and the Cuban government will then pay their fare to Havana.

In July they will work on citrus farms and during August they will tour Cuba. The program is designed to build support for the Cuban revolution on American campuses. The summer program is to be followed by a similar project from November to March in which participants will join Cuban volunteers in the sugar cane harvest.

Rev. Ralph D. ABERNATHY, SCLC head, has stated that SCLC plans "massive, ceaseless confrontations until the country deals with the realities of its evils" - that the nation will not be permitted to "rest" until poverty has been overcome.

Later this year, poor people will come to Washington to "confront" Congress about ending poverty and making January 15 (Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday) a national

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holiday. No details have been worked out yet.

In recent months it has become increasingly popular among black militants to quote Malcolm X and to demand respect and honor for his memory. Malcolm Little, generally referred to as Malcolm X, was a black nationalist who broke away from the Black Muslims (Nation of Islam) and formed his own black nationalist organization. He was assassinated in 1965 during a meeting of his organization by followers of the N. O. I.

It appears that all this recent publicity about Malcolm X and all the exhortations to make him remembered as a black intellectual, hero, and martyr is rankling the Muslims.

It has been reported that N. O. I. officials recently initiated an anti-Malcolm X campaign. There have been hints that something untoward may happen to W. C. Anas M. LUQMAN, a former member of the Muslims and currently a leader of the Malcolm X Black Hand Society of the World, Inc., which was formed in Chicago, Illinois, in 1968 to perpetuate the memory of Malcolm X and to stress black unity.

BLACK PANTHER PARTY

It was recently announced that BPP leaders Bobby SEALE and Raymond HEWITT were to travel to Sweden to obtain funds. The trip was to have begun 6 March, but has been delayed as SEALE has not obtained a passport.

A San Francisco press report 6 March stated that Roosevelt HILLIARD of the BPP announced that the SWP of Denmark had sent the BPP two round-trip tickets for a speaking tour by SEALE and HEWITT, which was to commence in Denmark and include stops in Sweden, Norway, and possibly France and West Germany. HILLIARD reportedly stated that the BPP has entered into a coalition with the SWP of Denmark which had been arranged by Stokely CARMICHAEL during a visit to Denmark. Further, that BPP chapter was being formed in Copenhagen and would be composed of black revolutionaries and deserters. HILLIARD also reportedly stated that the SWP

of Denmark had contributed \$1,000 to BPP bail and defense funds.

Stokely CARMICHAEL, Prime Minister of the BPP, has been touring Europe in recent months with his wife, Miriam MAKEBA, African folk singer.

A previously reliable source of a Government component has advised that the CPUSA often has been in a quandary concerning black extremist activity and has been trying to straddle the fence by supporting the right of Negroes to violent revolt but maintaining a party line favoring the use of political power until a more propitious time. In February 1969 the CP commission on black liberation passed a series of motions: accepting the violent guerrilla warfare program of the BPP, indicating a willingness to work closely with them, and expressing a desire to join them if this can be done.

A recently concluded survey by the Lemberg Center for the Study of Violence at Brandeis University has found little evidence of a patterned and planned conspiracy and organized guerrilla tactics in urban racial disorders. Reports of snipings in race related riots last July and August were exaggerated.

The Lemberg Study pins the partial blame for unfounded reports and beliefs of conspiracy on national and local press reporting. Press reports were considered by the Study to be unprecise, distorted, and inaccurate with a tendency to sensationalize the news. The Lemberg Center characterized as surprising and reprehensible the lack of initiative displayed by the press, particularly at the national level, with regard to checking and investigating reported disorders further.

Since the National Student Association broke its ties with the Agency two years ago, the Association has gotten out of the International field and has turned toward domestic mischief-making. Their campus interests for the past two years, according to the present President Robert POWELL, have been attacking the draft, poverty, "white racism," narcotics laws and college grading systems. POWELL, a University of North Carolina graduate, is presently on a leave of absence

from the Princeton graduate school. POWELL states that since the break with the Agency the Association has had to "hustle" most of its \$850,000 budget from foundations such as Ford and the Stern Family Fund and "clean" Government agencies such as the Department of Labor.

NSA now appears up to new dissension provoking activities. The Association plans to establish an all-Negro group in southern colleges to link-up with black student associations already active in the North and West. POWELL believes the southern Negro colleges are sitting ducks for organizational efforts. Black colleges are run by white trustees and starved by the state. In the South its just possible to find a dean of students who just doesn't like "niggers," POWELL states.

So far NSA has hired three black organizers who already are organizing students on black campuses in the South. All three whose names NSA would not divulge are said to be experienced organizers who have combed the area before for civil rights organizations.

The anti-war, "anti-U. S. A." movement which had some of its vitality sapped by the U. S. bombing halt decision and the beginning of the Vietnam War Paris Peace Talks has been cranking up new momentum lately. Irrespective of the Vietnam War, pressure has been generated in opposition to a U. S. Anti-Ballistic Missile Defense System and increasingly of late, against Chemical and Biological Warfare activities, whether offensive or defensive. As most of the energy of the movement is directed at the U. S. A. and rarely is there criticism of the Soviets or others, it would seem that the ulterior, but real, motive of many is to weaken the offensive and defense capabilities of the U. S. A. militarily.

A recent edition of the Guardian, a radical newsweekly, contained an article on Chemical-Biological (CB) Warfare and closed with the following comments re "an offensive against CB war."

"It is clear that the movement must become involved; must launch a struggle against CB research, production and use. Properly handled, it is an issue that can reach the popular imagination.

On a practical level an anti-CB campaign would not be difficult to initiate and would help to revitalize the movement:

1. Enough public antipathy to chemical and biological war exists to make the issue immediately legitimate.

2. The technology for CB weapons is being developed in accessible universities, hospitals and private research institutions throughout the nation, which makes local action easy to mount.

3. The production of CB weapons or components is often handled by civilian corporations, opening the possibility for boycotts, demonstrations and labor action. (See last week's Guardian for the names of some private institutions and corporations that share hundreds of millions of dollars in CB research and development.)

4. Several of the nine huge CB installations controlled by the military (See page 14) are within reasonable distance for militant protest action.

5. Since many GI's receive training in the handling of CB weapons, the issue would be a tool for GI organizers.

6. A movement against the misuse of "pure" scientific research is already beginning in the scientific community. However liberal and limited its goal is today, this movement has the potential of becoming a major problem for a government dependent on its advanced technology to rule much of the world. These scientists might be stimulated to stronger action if the radical and antiwar movements started a drive against one of the most dangerous examples of the "misuses" of science - CB weaponry.

For these and many more reasons the time is ripe for the movement to take the offensive against CB war."

A new "play on words" game has become popular. Samples listed below appeared in a recent N. Y. Times Magazine section.

convention, n. From the latin meaning "a coming together."
A meeting at which things come apart.

pollution, n. Grime in the streets.

restructure, v. To throw a fire bomb into the R. O. T. C. building.

Department of Black (or Afro-American) Studies, n. An idea first advanced in Tennessee in 1874, under the name "Jim Crow Law."

new left, n. The potted calling themselves black.

meaningful dialogue, n. An affirmative one-word response (usually "yes"), frequently used by college presidents after a confrontation with militant students.

out of sight, adj. Something that people over 30 cannot see with or without their glasses and/or contact lenses.

black power, n. The all-pervasive climate in any Chock Full o' Nuts restaurant when one sits at a counter and waits for service; and waits and waits.

divorce court, n. A hall of blame.

supermarket, n. A place where you cannot exercise shelf-control.

burlesque, n. A broad take-off.

hippie, n. A shaggy, unemployed youth who wants pot in every chicken.

archeologist, n. A person whose future lies in ruins.

library, n. A place where the dead live.

suicide, n. The sincerest form of self-criticism.

spock, n. A death-control pill.

pill, the, n. Pharmaceutical product enabling coeds to obtain a B. A. before a B. A. B. Y.

castration, n. A form of government in Cuba.

mini, n. A garment revealing the maxi.

Uncle Tom, n. A person who is black on the outside and white on the inside.

obstetrician, n. Labor organizer in a maternity ward.

air pollution, n. Television.

CALENDAR OF TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

. Asterisked items are either reported for the first time or contain additions or changes to previously reported activities.

March 14-16

*Little Rock, Arkansas - Movement activists plan a conference on the war and the draft with films, speeches, and workshops. The conference is being sponsored by the Southern Student Organizing Committee (SSOC) and is tentatively set for March 14-16.

March 14-19

*Washington, D. C. - A conference on the Atlantic Community has been scheduled and sponsored by a Georgetown University student organization, CONFAC. The conference is expected to include some seventy outstanding college students from this country, Western Europe, and behind the Iron Curtain. Among the topics at this year's conference, an annual affair, is "Student Revolt in the West." Daniel COHN-BENDIT, leftist student leader from Germany has reportedly been invited. It is doubtful that a visa will be granted for his attendance.

The conference seems to have generated little advance interest in the press.

March 15

*Seattle, Washington - The GI-Civilian Alliance for Peace and the University of Washington, Seattle Vietnam Committee are sponsoring a demonstration in downtown Seattle to show support for three soldiers that were court-martialed for meeting at the Presidio in San Francisco. They also plan to send a letter to the Commanding General of the 6th U. S. Army requesting reversal of the sentence and release of the soldiers.

March 15

*San Francisco, California - The GI Association is sponsoring a rally at the Marina Green to demand clemency for the "Presidio 27." Expected size of the rally is unknown but leaflets advertising the rally and speakers have been widely distributed in the San Francisco Bay area.

March 17

*Oswego and Albany, New York - On the 17th, a boycott of classes is scheduled at Oswego State College to secure petitions in protest of tuition increases, increases in room rents, and alleged current racial discrimination in colleges in the New York State University system. Many other state supported colleges and universities reportedly also plan boycotts. They also plan a letter writing campaign to their state legislature.

March 17

*New York State - The Confederated Student Governments, a nonchartered group of students on the campuses of the universities of the state of New York, has announced plans to boycott classes during the week of 17 March in protest of the proposed budget for the universities' system. The budget will reportedly reduce the amount of monies the universities' system will receive. The SDS chapter at New York State University, Albany, is offering support for this boycott.

March 18

*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania - The Philadelphia Resistance has announced plans to hold a teach-in at the Philadelphia AFES at 0700 hours, followed by a march to the Army recruiting station where a demonstration will be held to protest the courts-martial of the "Presidio 27."

March 18

*New York City - Members and sympathizers of the Greenwich Village Peace Center plan a "Guerrilla Theater" type of demonstration in Washington Square Park in the afternoon.

During the early evening, members and sympathizers of the Committee for the 27, a subsidiary of the Catholic Peace Fellowship, plan to hold a demonstration protesting the entire courts-martial proceedings in San Francisco at the Time-Life Building in New York City.

March 19

*Washington, D. C. - A Quaker Action group is sponsoring demonstrations at the Inter-American College at Ft. McNair and on March 19 and 20, Ft. Gulick, Panama Canal Zone to protest the training of counter-insurgency forces for use in Latin America.

A Quaker Action Group has also announced plans to hold demonstrations on March 19 and 20 at the Federal Building, Chicago, Illinois, in support of the vigil being held at Ft. Gulick in the Panama Canal Zone.

March 22, 23, & 24

Washington, D. C. - The Committee to Abolish HUAC (now H. I. S. C.) will hold its annual conference at which time strategy will be worked out for continuing the movement to abolish the committee.

March 27-31

Denver, Colorado - Over 1,000 young Spanish-speaking persons from throughout the country are expected to attend a Chicano Youth Liberation Conference being hosted by the Crusade for Justice. The theme of this meeting is "The New Chicano Revolution! - Where? How? When?" In the series of workshops, broadly described as those dealing with "social revolution" and with "cultural" developments the conference will address itself to the role of young people from the barrios, student movement, rural communities, campesino movement.

*It now appears that some areas of this country may be denied a tranquil Happy Easter this year as a number of organizations, primarily either black or anti-war, have indicated plans

to mark Easter weekend by demonstrations and various other activities designed to draw attention and presumably further their causes.

April 4

* Washington, D. C. - A newly formed District of Columbia Statehood Committee announced a drive to make the District the 51st state by 1971, and also declared that April 4, Good Friday, should be a holiday marking the first anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination.

Telegrams asking merchants to close their stores on that day have allegedly been sent to the Presidents of the Board of Trade and the D. C. Chamber of Commerce. "We expect the merchants to comply with this request," the Statehood Committee chairman said.

April 4

Rev. Ralph D. ABERNATHY, leader of SCLC, announced a nation-wide drive to organize poor whites and Negroes into unions through an alliance of unions, civil rights, and religious organizations. The campaign is to begin April 4, which SCLC has designated as National and International day of protest against racism and poverty in commemoration of the 1st anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther KING, Jr., one of its founders, by staging nine days of civil rights confrontations at Easter time in major cities. The action will start on Good Friday, the first anniversary of Dr. KING's murder.

Tentative arrangements include school boycotts, walkouts, sit-ins, rent strikes, and a march from Selma, to Montgomery, Alabama. The demonstrations are to take place in areas in which the SCLC has operational agencies and will "take the form of acceptable, non-violent, direct action," according to Ralph D. ABERNATHY,

SCIC President. He said that he proposed to center the first day of the demonstration in Alabama, "to be George WALLACE in Alabama where so many forms of evil are present."

At a SCIC meeting on 25 February the following schedule was agreed upon:

4 April - School boycott by children; closing of chain food stores; candle-light vigil at U.S. in N. Y. C. (then 7 April)

5 April - "National Tag Day" to raise funds for the SCIC;

6 April - "Black Easter" including a protest at Chicago, Illinois, during which KING will be symbolically raised from the dead;

7-12 April - "Days of Confrontation" in thirty or more cities

SCIC also plans to continue its efforts to have KING's birth date, January 15, declared a legal holiday.

In addition to the civil rights, peace, and Martin Luther KING, Jr., memorial activities, activity primarily being sponsored by SCIC, the anti-war groups are stepping up their plans for Easter week activity. Essentially their efforts will be anti-war but most will not lose the opportunity to include some civil rights activity and memorial to Martin Luther KING, Jr.

Initial planning started at the recently attended "National GI-Civilian Anti-War Action Conference held in Chicago last December 27-29. Primarily an effort of the SWP, YSA, and Student Mobilization Committee, they have been working and propagandizing the idea until now, conditions have evolved or are becoming involved in the organization of the actions.

On January 13, the national office of the Student Mobilization Committee issued a call for international actions against the war, April 6. In the message to anti-war groups throughout the world, SMC included the request that, "In those countries where American servicemen are stationed, we call on the anti-war movement to make a special effort for GI participation in the peace demonstrations."

To build April 6 on the campuses, the New York SMC has suggested holding "preinduction orientation sessions - anti-war basic training." These sessions would be meant to prepare students subject to the draft to carry on legal anti-war activity while in the Army.

April 5

New York City - The New York 5th Avenue Vietnam Peace Parade Committee is planning to organize a GI-Civilian peace demonstration. The Easter weekend action will coincide with others to be held in a total of seven regional centers across the U. S. A.

Seattle, Atlanta, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Chicago are also having demonstrations either on Saturday or Sunday. In Austin, the GI-Civilian anti-war action will be on 13 April.

Anti-war groups in Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, Baltimore, and New Jersey are expected, as well as GI's from bases all over the east coast. The march will assemble at 2 p.m. at Bryant Park and march to a rally in Central Park.

Chicago, Illinois - The Chicago Peace Council is hosting the Chicago GI-Civilian Peace March on 5 April. The Cleveland Area Peace Action Council (CAPAC) and the Student Mobilization Committee (SMC) will participate and also decided to co-sponsor a combination send-off rally and memorial for Martin Luther KING, Jr., on the evening of 4 April. Minneapolis anti-war groups have already been active in building support for the midwest regional demonstration in Chicago. In Detroit an ad

hoc committee of more than 100 persons, including individuals and organizations, is organizing participation in the Chicago action.

April 6 (Easter) was selected for traveling to the anti-war demonstration for the south-east region in Atlanta with a mass march. April 4 will be used to commemorate Martin Luther KING, JR., and the 5th will be utilized in workshops of assorted topics.

Plans are under way for a GI Teach-in near Ft. Lewis on April 6 - Seattle - and mass rallies on both the 5th and 6th.

San Francisco, California - Preliminary planning calls for a massive April 6 march on the Presidio followed by a rally at its gates. The twin theme will be "Rebut the GI's Home Front and 'Free the Presidio'!"

North Texas - An international group to hold an anti-war demonstration is underway. It was decided to hold the action on April 13 instead of Easter weekend when other groups across the country will demonstrate, because many University of Texas students will be home for the holiday.

April 5-6 - Toronto, Canada - The Communist Party of Canada will hold its 20th Convention Easter weekend.

SOURCE: Government and news media

RELIABILITY: Probably true